

The Melancholy Death of Oyster Boy  
& Other Stories

## Stick Boy and Match Girl in Love

Stick Boy liked Match Girl,  
he liked her a lot.  
He liked her cute figure,  
he thought she was hot.



But could a flame ever burn  
for a match and a stick?  
It did quite literally;  
he burned up pretty quick.

## Robot Boy

Mr. and Mrs. Smith had a wonderful life.  
They were a normal, happy husband and wife.  
One day they got news that made Mr. Smith glad.

Mrs. Smith would be a mom,  
which would make him a dad!  
But something was wrong with their bundle of joy.

It wasn't human at all,  
it was a robot boy!  
He wasn't warm and cuddly  
and he didn't have skin.  
Instead, there was a cold, thin layer of tin.  
There were wires and tubes sticking out of his head.  
He just lay there and stared,  
not living or dead.

The only time he seemed alive at all  
was with a long extension cord  
plugged into the wall.

Mr. Smith yelled at the doctor,  
"What have you done to my boy?  
He's not flesh and blood,  
he's aluminium alloy!"



The doctor said gently,  
"What I'm going to say  
will sound pretty wild.  
But you're not the father  
of this strange-looking child.  
You see, there still is some question  
about the child's gender,  
but we think that its father  
is a microwave blender."



The Smiths' lives were now filled  
with misery and strife.  
Mrs. Smith hated her husband,  
and he hated his wife.  
He never forgave her unholy alliance:  
a sexual encounter  
with a kitchen appliance.

And Robot Boy  
grew to be a young man.

Though he was often mistaken  
for a garbage can.

### Staring Girl



I once knew a girl  
who would just stand there and stare.  
At anyone or anything,  
she seemed not to care.

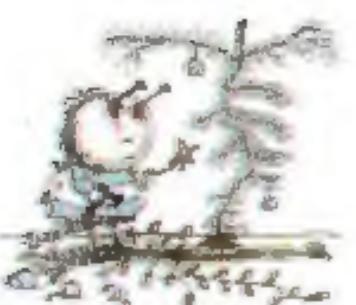
She'd stare at the ground,

She'd stare at the sky.

She'd stare at you for hours,  
and you'd never know why.

But after winning the local staring contest,

she finally gave her eyes  
a well-deserved rest.



### The Boy with Nails in His Eyes

The Boy with Nails in His Eyes  
put up his aluminum tree.  
It looked pretty strange  
because he couldn't really see.

### The Girl with Many Eyes

One day in the park  
I had quite a surprise.

I met a girl  
who had many eyes.

She was really quite pretty  
(and also quite shocking!)  
and I noticed she had a mouth,  
so we ended up talking.



We talked about flowers,  
and her poetry classes,  
and the problems she'd have  
if she ever wore glasses.

It's great to know a girl  
who has so many eyes,  
but you really get wet  
when she breaks down and cries.

### Stain Boy



Of all the super heroes,  
the strangest one by far,  
doesn't have a special power,  
or drive a fancy car.

Next to Superman and Batman,  
I guess he must seem tame.  
But to me he is quite special,  
and Stain Boy is his name.

He can't fly around tall buildings,  
or outrun a speeding train,  
the only talent he seems to have  
is to leave a nasty stain.

Sometimes I know it bothers him,  
that he can't run or swim or fly,  
and because of this one ability,  
his dry cleaning bill's sky-high.



### The Melancholy Death of Oyster Boy

He proposed in the dunes,  
they were wed by the sea,

their nine-day-long honeymoon  
was on the isle of Capri.

For their supper they had one spectacular dish—  
a simmering stew of mollusks and fish.

And while he savored the broth,  
her bride's heart made a wish.

That wish did come true – she gave birth to a baby.  
But was this little one human?

Well,  
maybe.

Ten fingers, ten toes,  
he had plumbing and sight.  
He could hear, he could feel,  
but normal?

Not quite.

This unnatural birth, this canker, this blight,  
was the start and the end and the sum of their plight.

She railed at the doctor:

"He cannot be mine.

He smells of the ocean, of seaweed and brine."

"You should count yourself lucky, for only last week,  
I treated a girl with three ears and beak.

That your son is half oyster  
you cannot blame me,  
...have you considered, by chance,  
a small home by the sea?"

Not knowing what to name him,  
they just called him Sam,  
or, sometimes,  
"that thing that looks like a clam."

Everyone wondered, but no one could tell,  
When would young Oyster Boy come out of his shell?

When the Thompson quadruplets espied him one day,  
they called him a bivalve and ran quickly away.

One spring afternoon,  
Sam was left in the rain.

At the southwestern corner of Seaview and Main,  
he watched the rain water as it swirled  
down the drain.

His mom on the freeway  
in the breakdown lane



was pounding the dashboard—  
she couldn't contain  
the ever-rising grief,  
frustration,  
and pain.

"Really, sweetheart," she said,  
"I don't mean to make fun,  
but something smells fishy  
and I think it's our son.

I don't like to say this, but it must be said,  
you're blaming our son for your problems in bed".

He tried salves, he tried ointments,  
that turned everything red.  
He tried potions and lotions  
and tincture of lead.

He ached and he itched and he twitched and he bled

The doctor diagnosed,  
"I can't be quite sure,  
but the cause of the problem may also be the cure.  
They say oysters improve your sexual powers.

Perhaps eating your son  
would help you do it for hours!"



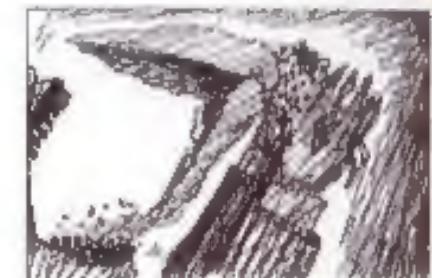
He came on tiptoe,  
he came on the sly,  
sweat on his forehead,  
and on his lips – a lie.

"Son, are you happy? I don't mean to pry,  
but do you dream of Heaven?  
Have you wanted to die?"

Sam blinked his eyes twice.  
But made no reply.

Dad fingered his knife and loosened his tie.

As he picked up his son,  
Sam dripped on his coat.  
With the shell to his lips,  
Sam slipped down his throat.



They buried him quickly in the sand by the sea  
– sighed a prayer, wept a tear –  
and were back home by three.

A cross of gray driftwood marked Oyster Boy's grave.  
Words writ in the sand  
promised Jesus would save.



But his memory was lost with one high-tide wave.

Back home safe in bed,  
he kissed her and said,  
"Let's give it a whirl."

"But this time," she whispered, "we'll wish for a girl."



### Voodoo Girl

Her skin is white cloth,  
and she's all sewn apart  
and she has many colored pins  
sticking out of her heart.

She has a beautiful set  
of hypno-disk eyes,  
the ones that she uses  
to hypnotize guys.

She has many different zombies  
who are deeply in her trance.  
She even has a zombie  
who was originally from France.

But she knows she has a curse on her,  
a curse she cannot win.  
For if someone gets  
too close to her,

the pins stick farther in.

### Stain Boy's Special Christmas

For Christmas, Stain Boy got a new uniform.  
It was clean and well pressed,  
comfy and warm.



But in a few short minutes,  
(no longer than ten)

those wet, greasy stains  
started forming again.

### The Girl Who Turned into a Bed

It happened that day  
she picked some strange pussy willow.  
Her head swelled up white  
and soft as a pillow.

Her skin, which had turned  
all flaky and rotten,  
was now replaced  
with 100% cotton.

Through her organs and torso  
she sprouted like wings,  
a beautiful set  
of mattress and springs.

It was so terribly strange  
that I started to weep.  
But at least after that  
I had a nice place to sleep.



### Roy, the Toxic Boy

To those of us who knew him  
- his friends -  
we called him Roy.  
To others he was known  
as that horrible Toxic Boy.



He loved ammonia and asbestos,  
and lots of cigarette smoke.  
What he breathed in for air  
would make most people choke!

His very favorite toy  
was a can of aerosol spray;  
he'd sit quietly and shake it,  
and spray it all the day.

He'd stand inside of the garage  
in the early-morning frost,  
waiting for the car to start  
and fill him with exhaust.

The one and only time  
I ever saw Toxic Boy cry  
was when some sodium chloride  
got into his eye.



One day for fresh air  
they put him in the garden.

His face went deathly pale  
and his body began to harden.

The final gasp of his short life  
was sickly with despair.  
Whoever thought that you could die  
from breathing outdoor air?

As Roy's soul left his body,  
we all said a silent prayer.  
It drifted up to heaven  
and left a hole in the ozone layer.



### James

Unwisely, Santa offered a teddy bear to James, unaware that he had been mauled by a grizzly earlier that year.



### Stick Boy's Festive Season

Stick Boy noticed that his Christmas tree looked healthier than he did.



### Brie Boy

Brie Boy had a dream he only had twice,  
that his full, round head was only a slice.

The other children never let Brie Boy play...  
.. but at least he went well with a nice Chardonnay.



### Mummy Boy

He wasn't soft and pink  
with a fat little tummy;  
he was hard and hollow,  
a little boy mummy.

"Tell us, please, Doctor,  
the reason or cause,

why our bundle of joy  
is just a bundle of gauze."

"My diagnosis," he said,  
"for better or worse,  
is that your son is the result  
of an old pharaoh's curse."

That night they talked  
of their son's odd condition—  
they called him "a reject  
from an archaeological expedition."

They thought of some complex  
scientific explanation,  
but assumed it was simple  
supernatural reincarnation.



With the other young tots  
he only played twice,  
an ancient game of virgin sacrifice.

(But the kids ran away, saying, "You aren't very nice.")

Alone and rejected, Mummy Boy wept,  
then went to the cabinet  
where the snack food was kept.

He wiped his wet sockets with his mummified sleeves,  
and sat down to a bowl of sugar-frosted tanna leaves.

One dark, gloomy day,  
from out of the fog,  
appeared a little white mummy dog.



For his newfound wrapped pet,  
he did many things,  
like building a dog house  
à la Pyramid of Kings

It was late in the day—  
just before dark.  
Mummy Boy took his dog  
for a walk in the park.

The park was empty  
except for a squirrel,  
and a birthday party for a Mexican girl.

The boys and girls had all started to play,  
but noticed that thing that looked like papier mâché.



"Look, it's a piñata,"  
said one of the boys,  
"let's crack it wide open  
and get the candy and toys."

They took a baseball bat  
and whacked open his head.  
Mummy Boy fell to the ground;  
he finally was dead.

Inside of his head  
were no candy or prizes,  
just a few stray beetles  
of various sizes.



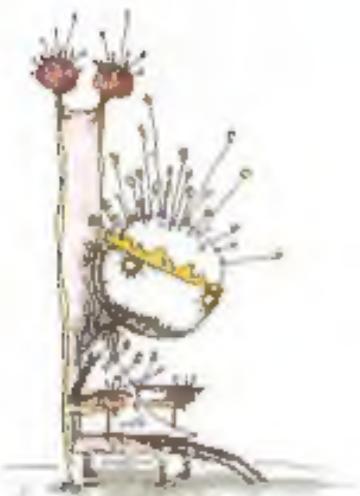
### Junk Girl

There once was a girl  
who was made up of junk.  
She looked really dirty,  
and she smelled like a skunk.

She was always unhappy,  
or in one of her slumps – perhaps 'cause she spent  
so much time down in the dumps.

The only bright moment  
was from a guy named Stan.  
He was the neighborhood  
garbage man.

He loved her a lot  
and made a marriage proposal,  
but she'd already thrown herself  
down a garbage disposal.



### The Pin Cushion Queen

Life isn't easy  
for the Pin Cushion Queen.  
When she sits on her throne  
pins push through her spleen.

### Melonhead

There once was a morose melonhead,  
who sat there all day  
and wished he were dead.

But you should be careful  
about the things that you wish.  
Because the last thing he heard  
was a deafening squish.



### Sue

To avoid a lawsuit,  
we'll just call her Sue  
(or "that girl who likes  
to sniff lots of glue").

The reason I know  
that this is the case  
is when she blows her nose,



kleenex sticks to her face.



### Jimmy, the Hideous Penguin Boy

"My name is Jimmy,  
but my friends just call me  
'the hideous penguin boy.'"



### Char Boy

For Christmas, Char Boy received his usual lump of coal,  
which made him very happy.

For Christmas, Char Boy received a small present instead of  
his usual lump of coal,  
which confused him very much.

For Christmas, Char Boy was mistaken for a dirty fireplace  
and swept out into the street.



## Anchor Baby

There was a beautiful girl  
who came from the sea.  
And there was just one place  
that she wanted to be.

With a man named Walker  
who played in a band.  
She would leave the ocean  
and come onto the land.

He was the one  
that she wanted the most.  
And she tried everything  
to capture this ghost.

But throughout all their lives  
they never connected.  
She wandered the earth  
alone and rejected.

She tried looking happy  
she tried looking tragic,  
she tried astral projecting,  
sex, and black magic.

Nothing could join them,  
except maybe one thing,  
just maybe...  
something to anchor their spirits...  
They had a baby.

But to give birth to the baby  
they needed a crane.  
The umbilical cord  
was in the form of a chain.

It was ugly and gloomy,  
and as hard as a kettle.  
It had no pink skin,  
just heavy gray metal.

The baby that was meant  
to bring them together,  
just shrouded them both  
in a cloud of foul weather.



So Walker took off  
to play with the band.  
And from that day on,  
he stayed mainly on land.

And she was alone  
with her gray baby anchor,  
who got so oppressive  
that it eventually sank her.

As she went to the bottom,  
not fulfilling her wish,  
it was her, and her baby...  
and a few scattered fish.

## Oyster Boy Steps Out

For Halloween,  
Oyster Boy decided to go as a human.

